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or any court in the state.

SENATOR KELLY: Now if I am understanding that, that master has the ability to punish for contempt the same as a district judge would have and basically he is working with citizens to get records or to get information, and if he says yes and they say no, they are fined.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: They are held in contempt until they purge themselves of such contempt.

SENATOR KELLY: So then, at any time, does this action from the master, does it get into district court.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: No, I would imagine it would go up to the Supreme Court only, because this is a constitutionally established commission and any appeal would go to the Supreme Court.

SENATOR KELLY: Okay, thank you very much, Senator Luedtke. I have gained an awful lot from this exchange and I hope my colleagues have also maybe gained, whatever conclusion you come to. I certainly support the idea of immunity to those people who are dealing in this very sensitive area. I chastise the Commission on Judicial Qualifications in that they have not acted. They have not at this time removed any judge from office, not that removing a judge from office means that they are doing their job or not doing their job, but we do have testimony that they did pressure judges off of the bench through this procedure with none of that pressurizing or none of it being, at any time, made public. This appears to me to be a gestapo type tactic instead of an open lawyer, attorney, judicial procedure. I wasn't aware that that was going on but I am now and I would visit with Senator Luedtke at a later date because it is my intention to support LB 640 but I have severe reservations about giving to an attorney or an investigating master the right to punish for contempt, when in my opinion, that belongs only to a judge.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: May I reply to that. Senator Kelly, you understand that this is under the constitutional authority. This is the same authority as the court. This is a court. When the master goes out and holds these hearings, he has the same position as a judge as far as holding the hearings. So you are not just having anybody off the street doing this. This is under the appointment of the Qualifications Commission but the Commission makes the ultimate decision. I hope I haven't further confused you by saying that but it isn't just anybody that is doing this. This is the same as the authority of that Commission. Now, you might also be interested that LB 280, which is held on constitutional amendment, which is being held and is bracketed, deals with, and you might want to take a look at that, Senator Kelly. Senator Kelly, you might want to take a look at LB 280, which we